

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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O 100125Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 091

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1003

DEPT PLEASE PASS AMEMBASSY'S MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR,
TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO, USUN NY, USMISSION GENEVA, SECDEF NIACT
IMMEDIATE, JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE, USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE.

FOR AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE: MEDICAL STATUS REPORT NO. 2

REF: GUATEMALA 949

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPORT ON MEDICAL
SITUATION IN GUATEMALA AS OF 0800 HOURS FEBRUARY 9 FROM
DOCTOR E. CROFT LONG, CARLOS C. CAMPBELL, HARRISON C.
SPENCER, AND EUGENE R. BOORSTROM.

2. HOSPITALS. FOUR HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING
PATIENTS DURING THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS. THE CURRENT
CENSUS BY HOSPITAL:

	BEDS	
	OCCUPIED	EMPTY
HOSPITAL ROOSEVELT	900	49
IGSS GENERAL	43	50
IGSS TRAUMATOLOGIA	-	-
IGSS REHABILITACION	600	41

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3. THE PLAN FOR UTILIZATION OF URBAN HOSPITALS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. ROOSEVELT WILL HANDLE SURGERY AND ACUTE TRAUMA WHILE GENERAL HOSPITAL WILL SERVE FOR GENERAL MEDICAL CARE. GENERAL IS NOW IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK (EXCEPT FOR THE PEDIATRIC SERVICE). NEW PATIENTS WILL BE ADMITTED BEGINNING 11 FEBRUARY. THIS HOSPITAL STILL HAS MAJOR DEFICIENCIES IN WATER SUPPLY, SURGICAL AREAS, AND BEDS.

4. TWO ADDITIONAL HOSPITALS ARE BEING READIED FOR SERVICE: MARIA TERESA WITH FORTY BEDS FOR PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND HOSPITAL SAN VICENTE WITH ONE HUNDRED CONVALESCENT BEDS. TO DATE, NO PRIVATE SECTOR OR MILITARY HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING.

5. MINISTER OF HEALTH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO USAID DIRECTOR FEBRUARY 9 FOR ALABAMA PARTNERS' GIFT OF TWO 100-BED FIELD HOSPITALS AND USG GIFT OF THEIR TRANSPORT TO GUATEMALA. HE IS CURRENTLY PLANNING ON INSTALLING ONE HOSPITAL IN THE NEW NEUROPSCHIATRIC HOSPITAL WHICH IS PRESENTLY UNEQUIPPED, BUT WHICH COULD THEN BE UTILIZED AS A CONVALESCENT CENTER. MOH PROPOSES THAT THE OTHER PDH BE DEPLOYED IN A PERMANENT FACILITY WHICH COULD FUNCTION AS A REFERRAL CENTER, SUCH AS THE NEW, AS YET UNFURNISHED, HOSPITAL AT CUILAPA.

6. MINISTER ASKED IF IT WERE TRUE THAT US EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THAT NO ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED IN GUATEMALA. AID DIRECTOR SAID THAT WAS INCORRECT; EMBASSY HAD REPORTED THAT NO MORE PHYSICIANS WERE NEEDED FOR TIME BEING. MINISTER WAS PLEASED AND AGREED WITH OUR VIEW ON BOTH POINTS. INDEED, NUMEROUS THIRD COUNTRY PHYSICIANS ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM ROOSEVELT TO RURAL AREAS FEBRUARY 9.

7. MINISTER SAID MOH IS PREPARING A LIST OF THE COUNTRY'S "REAL NEEDS" IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AND THIS WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL EMBASSIES SHORTLY.
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8. USA FIELD HOSPITAL IN CHIMALTENANGO IS FUNCTIONING AND RECEIVING REFERRALS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA.

9. SURVEILLANCE. AS OF FEBRUARY 9, DISEASE AND INJURY SURVEILLANCE WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN THE FIVE URBAN HOSPITALS. U.S. ARMY PREVENTIVE MEDICINE COMPONENT UNDER COL. CUTTING IS COLLABORATING TO MAINTAIN SURVEILLANCE

IN THE THREE CHIMALTENANGO HOSPITALS. A SUMMARY OF THIS DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE ON 10 FEBRUARY.

10. COORDINATION WITH PAHO HAS NOW BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH DR. ARTURO ROMERO SO THAT ALL SURVEILLANCE DATA WILL BE COLLATED AT THE MOH. PAHO IS INTERESTED IN CLOSE ATTENTION TO ACUTE DIARRHEA IN CHILDREN IN THE CHIMALTENANGO AREA.

11. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO DATE OF ACUTE DISEASE PROBLEMS IN ANY AREA.

12. MOH HAS CONTINUED TO A LIMITED EXTENT WITH ITS PROPOSED VACCINATION CAMPAIGN. THIS CAMPAIGN CONSISTS OF:

A. THE YEARLY UPDATE OF DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH), TETANUS, ORAL POLIO, AND MEASLES VACCINATION. TO DATE THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF DOSES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS.

	MEASLES	DPT	POLIO
EL PROGRESO	2,500	4,600	3,740
SACATEPEQUEZ	3,500	4,070	2,560
CHIMALTENANGO	6,700	12,660	12,660
EL QUICHE	10,500	19,586	19,586

THESE DOSES REPRESENT VACCINATION FOR A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION. THIS LIMITED CAMPAIGN IS IMPLEMENTED BY MOH BRIGADES. AT PRESENT OVER 100,000 DOSES OF THESE VACCINES ARE ALREADY IN THE MOH.

B. TYPHOID VACCINE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO APPROXIMATELY 50,000 PERSONS IN THE CAPITAL AND 36,000 IN THE RURAL AREAS OF EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE. (VACCINE WAS ADMIN-
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ISTERED PRIOR TO MINISTER OF HEALTH'S RETURN FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.) NO PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO IDENTIFY PERSONS FOR A SECOND SHOT, THEREBY PROBABLY RENDERING THE ENTIRE EFFORT USELESS. THE MOH CURRENTLY HAD 100,000 DOSES OF TYPHOID VACCINE, AND A LARGE SHIPMENT OF ADDITIONAL VACCINE ARRIVED FROM ECUADOR FEBRUARY 9. PAHO ORDERED AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 PLUS DOSES FEBRUARY 8.

13. USAID DIRECTOR FOLLOWED UP FEBRUARY 9 WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH ON DEFENSE MINISTER'S URGENT APPEAL FOR VACCINES (SEE GUATEMALA 942). DIRECTOR ASKED IF MINISTER HAD ANY THOUGHTS ON IMMUNIZATION. MINISTER SAID THERE WERE SEVENTY HEALTH POSTS IN GUATEMALA CITY WHICH HAD BEEN CARRYING OUT CAMPAIGN

REPORTED ABOVE. GUATEMALA WAS FORTUNATE IT HAD SUPPLIES IN COUNTRY FOR THIS BEFORE QUAKE. DIRECTOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND SAID IF MOH SHOULD NEED ANY HELP OR IMMUNIZATION TO LET MISSION KNOW. MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT TYPHOID IMMUNIZATION, THOUGHT MASSIVE CAMPAIGN NOT WORTH DOING, AND SAID REALLY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF TYPHOID PREVENTION IS PROTECTING WATER SUPPLY, TO WHICH MOH WILL BE GIVING TOP PRIORITY.

14. COMMENT: REPORTS OF WATER AND FOOD SHORTAGES IN AREAS SURROUNDING CHIMALTENANGO DEMAND PROMPT, DEFINITIVE ACTION. REMEDIES TO SUCH PROBLEMS PRESENT THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WITH THE CHALLENGE OF POSITIVE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY WILL BE LOOKING FOR GROUPS WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES IN WATER SUPPLY, WASTE DISPOSAL, HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AND SELF-HELP FOOD SUPPLIES IN CONSIDERING ASSISTANCE TO VILLAGES IN THE INTERIOR OVER THE COMING SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS. MELOY

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